

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE **EXAMINING GROUP 2624**

> PATENT 1110-0258P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Hiroshi YAMAGUCHI

Conf.:

4884

Appl. No.:

09/448,301

Group:

2624

Filed:

November 24, 1999

Examiner: DO, Ahn Hong

For:

RETRIEVAL

SYSTEM

AND **IMAGE** PROCESSING

APPARATUS

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

JAN 2 8 2004

Technology Center 2600

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 January 23, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated September 23, 2003, the period for response having been extended one (1) month to January 23, 2004, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This reply includes:

Amendments to the Claims; and

Remarks.